

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$5.00...

OFFICES: Omaha: The Bee Building, South Omaha: City Hall building, Twenty-fifth and N streets.

COMMUNICATIONS: Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed: Editorial Department, The Omaha Bee.

BUSINESS LETTERS: Business letters and remittances should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha, Neb.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION: State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.: Geo. H. Tschuck, Secretary of the Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of the Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee, printed during the month of January, 1899, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Number of copies, Total. Rows include 1. 24,065, 2. 23,900, 3. 23,693, 4. 23,620, 5. 23,680, 6. 23,710, 7. 24,069, 8. 23,300, 9. 23,440, 10. 23,770, 11. 23,640, 12. 23,610, 13. 24,040, 14. 24,410, 15. 23,807, 16. Total 742,485.

Net total sales 742,485. Net daily average 23,623. GEORGE H. TSCHUCK, Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of January, 1899.

Twenty-one ballots in the senatorial bombardment without any breach in the ramparts.

Unless all signs fall, Nebraska's new United States senator will be named the last of this week.

Another large edition of the thanks of congress is again due, this time for the successful warriors at Manila.

Chicago newspapers are already printing election notices simply as a reminder that the municipal elections are not far off.

After Congressman Mercer carries his public building bills successfully through the house he ought to be sufficiently experienced in diplomacy to join the diplomatic corps.

That United States senatorship would make a very acceptable valentine for several people who have been maintaining headquarters at Lincoln for the last six weeks.

Completing the west wing of the new Omaha postoffice means more work for Omaha laboring men. Every workingman in Omaha is behind Congressman Mercer in his effort to secure the necessary appropriation.

Cold days play havoc with the attendance at the public schools. Yet the school children are for the most part better provided for in warm school rooms than in half-heated and poorly ventilated homes.

One thing that can be said in favor of Colonel Stotsenberg and that is that he realizes the expensiveness of cable tolls. The cable company drew no fat on his official message giving casualties in the First Nebraska.

Whatever enlarges the field of the railroads centering in Omaha helps to build up the trade, and commerce of Omaha. That is why Omaha is interested in having an unimpeded gulf outlet for the only road that connects it with the gulf.

A Frenchman has just succeeded in perfecting the invention of a bullet-proof jacket which he has worked on for years, just as though there were some dangers in the duel, as practiced in his country, against which protection were needed.

Tax Commissioner Sackett professes to believe he has got all the property taxable under the law included in his assessment list this year. It is to be feared the tax commissioner might be astonished if some of the estates of eminent tax shirkers should go to probate.

The attempt to bring the bodies of fallen soldiers back from Cuba and Porto Rico brings to light the fact that it costs more to bring home a dead soldier than a live soldier. That is another reason why the people would prefer to have their soldiers brought back alive.

The charter amendment bill makes a bulky document as it appears in printed form, although it offers comparatively few changes in the law. The Douglas delegation should see to it that it has early consideration and thus avoid the dangers and pitfalls of hasty action in the closing days of the session.

A prize hog suit which has been pending in Springfield, Ill., has been brought to a close by the failure of the jury to render a verdict, but not until \$4,000 has been used up to pay for the costs and the prize hog is said to have died before the sale was made. If this does not stimulate the hog business it will be because the human hogs are too hard to satisfy.

The report of the Filipino junta as to the treachery of General Otis and the brutality of the American soldiers leaves no doubt but that the insurgents have acquired a high degree of efficiency in those methods of Spanish warfare, the most deadly feature of which is the abuse heaped on the unreasoning enemy who refuses to "retire precipitately with the greatest disorganization and loss."

SHOULD DECLARE A POLICY.

In the United States senate on Saturday a "unanimous consent" agreement was made to vote on the McEnery resolution tomorrow. This may not be done, however, because senators were absent when the agreement was made and who are opposed to the government making any declaration of policy regarding the Philippines.

It is understood that most of the republican senators promised, before the treaty of peace was ratified, to support the McEnery resolution as soon as ratification had been accomplished. That resolution is less satisfactory in its terms than some of the others, but it defines the policy of the government in a way which we have no doubt would be acceptable to the Filipinos and put a stop to hostilities. It says to the people with whom we are at war that it is not the intention of the United States to permanently annex their country, but to establish there a government suitable to the wants and conditions of the inhabitants, to prepare them for local self-government and in due time to make such disposition of the islands as will best promote the interests of the citizens of the United States and the people of the Philippines.

Such a declaration involves no surrender on our part and is in complete harmony with what we proclaimed as our purpose in going to war with Spain. It is consistent with American principles and we think it expresses the feeling of a very large majority of the American people. If it should have the effect, as we fully believe it would, of putting an end to bloodshed, it would redound to the honor of the country. A commission has been appointed by the president one object of which is understood to be the conciliation of the Filipinos. Why not accomplish this in a more prompt and direct way by a resolution of congress explicitly declaring that the United States does not intend to annex the islands and force its rule upon their people?

This is the wise, just and honorable course. There is no glory for this nation in killing Filipinos and certainly we do not need to do so in order to demonstrate our military superiority. Every report of American soldiers killed and wounded in the Philippines is an appeal to congress to declare a policy that will stop the conflict.

NO CALL FOR A CHANGE.

All county officers in Nebraska are said to be heartily in favor of the proposed extension of their terms of office until 1901. The pretext for this new departure is an intention to save money to the taxpayers through reduced election expenses. If this view were correct it would be economy to extend the terms of state as well as county officers and save the people the expense and vexation of an election contest for an indefinite period.

As a matter of fact, there can be no saving to the taxpayers in the proposed scheme, excepting in the difference in the cost of ballots of reduced dimensions. There must be an election held in 1899 in every precinct in the state, because the constitution requires the people to elect one supreme judge and two university regents to fill the places of the officers whose terms expire in January, 1900. Even if the state election of 1899 could also be deferred it is doubtful whether the taxpayers would not prefer to pay the election expenses rather than forego the privilege of choosing new county officers every two years. In any event it is questionable whether the legislature would be justified in attempting such an innovation without a full and free expression of the people either through party convention or discussion through the press.

The fact that 1900 will be a presidential election year counts against rather than in favor of such a scheme. The people of every county are interested in divorcing local elections from national issues. In most instances local officers are chosen on their merits more than for their views on national politics. On the other hand, it would be indiscreet for parties to jeopardize success of presidential electors, congressmen and legislative candidates who are to elect United States senators by tying them together with candidates for county offices.

A serious objection is also presented in the increase of the already large number of candidates to be voted for in presidential years, which would take up more time for each voter and increase the risk of leaving many names unvoted.

It would seem to us that all these considerations outweigh any possible advantage that might be derived by the public from extending the terms of efficient officers.

THE FUTURE WHEAT SUPPLY.

A short time ago Sir William Crookes, president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, expressed the opinion in an address to the association that within a generation the world's production of wheat will not equal the demand—an opinion which attracted a great deal of attention and provoked much unfavorable criticism. In reference to this country it was said: "Practically there remains no unutilized prairie land in the United States suitable for wheat growing. The virgin land has been rapidly absorbed, until at present there is no land left for wheat without reducing the area for maize, hay and other necessary crops. It is almost certain that within a generation the ever-increasing population of the United States will consume all the wheat grown within its borders and will be driven to import, and, like ourselves, will scramble for a lion's share of the wheat crop of the world."

The question of the future supply of wheat is of universal interest and it receives most instructive consideration from Mr. John Hyde, statistician of the Department of Agriculture, in the February number of the North American Review. Mr. Hyde points out the conditions in the United States a generation ago as to population and wheat production, showing that the growth of the latter has been relatively much greater than the increase of population, but he observes that we are liable to be led seriously astray if we assume for the thirty-three years to come an increase of wheat production proportionate to that of the thirty-three years last past. He thinks the population of the United States in 1931, exclusive of colonial possessions or dependencies, will be not less than 130,000,000 and the agricultural requirements of this population will include a wheat crop of 700,000,000 bushels, without a bushel for export; an oat crop of 1,250,000,000 bushels; a corn crop of 3,450,000,000 bushels and a hay crop of 100,000,000 tons, all for domestic consumption, with cotton and wool, fruit and vegetables, dairy and poultry products, meats and innumerable minor commodities in corresponding proportions. These are certainly formidable figures and Mr. Hyde says the area necessary to the production of the three principal cereals alone will be over 15 per cent greater than the enormous total acreage devoted in 1898 to grain, cotton and hay, while the mere addition of the two last mentioned products and of the minor cereals will call for an acreage exceeding the total area of improved land in farms at the present time.

Mr. Hyde says it is too well established a fact to be the subject of controversy that for general agricultural purposes the public domain is practically exhausted and that consequently there can be no further considerable addition to the farm area of the country. It can be somewhat increased by the reclamation of desert lands, but such addition will be very small, if not absolutely insignificant. There is, however, a vast body of improved land already in farms, amounting at the last census to 265,600,000 acres, which will be made to contribute to the agricultural production of the future. On the whole the figures presented by the statistician of the Agricultural Department support the contention of Sir William Crookes that within a generation the wheat supply of the world, including the United States, will fall so far short of the demand as to constitute general scarcity.

PARADISE LOST.

The more information we acquire concerning Cuba and the Cubans the firmer becomes the conviction that the American people must look elsewhere to plant colonies. Throughout the discussion in congress of a declaration of war some of the members pictured a future commercial conquest of Cuba, asserting that American brains and American money must inevitably dominate the island. The Bee contended then that compared with Nebraska and a dozen other western states as a field for profitable investment and for settlers Cuba cannot for a moment be seriously considered.

A few syndicates controlling vast capital, by acquiring large tracts of land, find an inviting field in Cuba for exploitation, but the man of little or no means will never locate there so long as the west can hold out to him so many allurements as it does. As a matter of fact, the white man cannot flourish in Cuba. Otherwise the island would have gained its independence half a century ago. An inferior race now peoples the unfortunate isle and it goes without saying that intelligent and discriminating Americans will not migrate to its shores when our own health-giving and fertile prairies are open to them. A Santiago correspondent of the Chicago Record thus briefly discloses a few phases of life on the southern shore of Cuba. The superficial prospect pleases, yet death lurks in all quarters. He says:

No prettier scenery could be found in any land. Were it not for the mosquitoes sleep would be delightful. The nights are cool the year around. The town is nestled away in a bed of the mountains, which serve as a great natural wall. There is pure mountain air, but it is often vitiated by fever-laden vapors. There are beautiful days, but they are debilitating; there are enchanted nights, but made hideous by the dread mosquito. Beautiful foliage is contaminated by stinging insects and the scents, the lovely flowers are poisonous to the touch and birds of rare plumage utter hideous sounds. The scenery by moonlight is wonderful, but the dew falls like rain, until the birds at morning must dry their wings before they can fly. Santiago is a city of music, pretty colors and fair women, but it is a city of death. Former masters, now beggars, sleep on the doorsteps of their former slaves and edifices frown upon an illiterate and degenerate youth.

Even in the midst of the most rigorous winter no such obverse picture could be drawn of healthful and prosperous Nebraska.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE NAVY.

The decision of the secretary of the navy to build six 2,500-ton cruisers is to be regretted. The draught of these vessels is so great that they cannot be used in the rivers and estuaries on the coast of China or in the Philippines, while their armament and batteries are too light to engage in battle, unless with vessels of a similar class, which have fallen into disfavor with the strong naval powers and consequently will be no longer constructed. We have already, of this class of cruisers, eighteen, which is fully as many as we are ever likely to need. The money necessary to build these six vessels would have given us four powerful protected cruisers of a higher speed and heavier armament than the New York, which would have added to the effective fighting strength of our navy more than a dozen of these light war ships could have done. The war ship of the future that will decide destinies and make history is to be the fast, heavily armored cruiser and battleship with powerful batteries and every dollar that we expend in the construction of a navy would give better results, at least for the present, if devoted to the building of that type of fighting craft.

The uneasiness now prevailing in Macedonia has filled the sultan with fears of a huge conspiracy aiming at the instigation of a general revolution and as a measure of suppression he threatens to proclaim a holy war. This is the most powerfully persuasive measure ever adopted by the commander of the faithful and as its chief arguments consist in removing eyelids, abbreviating tongues, cropping and slicing ears and noses, boring holes through the body with red hot irons and other equally delicate and convincing proofs of his majesty's regard for the Macedonians, who are defenseless, will do well to quiet their restlessness just at this time.

POINTERS FOR THE LEGISLATURE.

Oceola Record (rep.): The legislature should not fail to pass a good assessment law. Let Nebraska property be assessed at its real value, and let it all be assessed, and it will make a much better showing for the state and will equalize taxation.

Blair Pilot (rep.): The State Board of Transportation has been declared a nuisance by all, and the present legislature will probably give Governor Poynter an opportunity to say whether the pops are in earnest about the matter. Measures will probably be passed which will effectually wipe out an office that simply gives nourishment to a hanger-on.

Central City Nonpareil (rep.): A measure before the legislature that is meeting with the unpopular reception throughout the state is that it deserves the bill providing for uniform school text-books to be compiled and published by the state. The text-book compiled by the ordinary political occupant of a state job would be a daisy. The bill provides some safety, but they cannot be relied upon as such and there is no occasion for uniform text-books anyway.

Seward Reporter (rep.): One of the bills that is attracting considerable attention in the Nebraska legislature is a measure to make the terms of county officers four years. It provides that county officers now serving shall remain in office one year longer than the term for which they were elected, and their successors shall be elected in the year 1900, the term thereafter.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE. The Alabama legislature has passed a resolution recommending the appointment of General Wheeler to be major general in the regular army as soon as a vacancy shall occur.

It may not be generally known, but the longest war in recorded history was waged on American soil. It was between the Wrangle and Chilkat Indians in Alaska. After going on for 600 years it has just been ended by a treaty of peace.

Senator Ross of Vermont lives in a handsome house and a half from St. Johnsbury. His residence overlooks the beautiful Passumpsic valley. The senator takes a great delight in his farm, to the cultivation of which he gives much personal attention.

Judge William Butler of Philadelphia, who has resigned from the bench of the United States district court, learned the trade of a printer in the office of the West Chester (Pa.) Village Record. Among the other boys in the office at the same time was Bayard Taylor.

Just before Mr. Merrill left the senate, he was sent a note and a half from St. Johnsbury. His residence overlooks the beautiful Passumpsic valley. The senator takes a great delight in his farm, to the cultivation of which he gives much personal attention.

Let no man say the Filipinos cannot fight. They are brave and skillful warriors.

Primitive Weapons of War. Philadelphia North American. Many of Aguinaldo's troops were armed with bows and arrows. He himself appears to have used a boomerang.

Chili Not So Cold. New York Mail and Express. Chili has thrown off all chilliness toward the United States and enters the international union of American republics with a warm welcome.

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Chicago Times-Herald: We mourn for our own loss in killed and wounded, but we shudder at the slaughter of simple thousands in the unequal contest. Americans find no compensating gain or glory in a victory over the half-armored and half-naked natives of Luzon. Their blood is on the head of Aguinaldo and the minority in the United States senate, but there was nothing of the "half devil" about the slaughtered Filipinos to make us exultant over their decimation.

Baltimore American: In even greater degree does the foolish fate of the followers of Aguinaldo strike one. Here we lost only four men, and killed 2,000 and wounded 3,500 of the misguided natives, who fought mostly with old weapons, for what they believed to be their liberty. It is all very well to say our forty were worth many times as many, but after awhile we shall be sending missionaries out there and teaching them that the immortal soul has no sliding values. This brings us up to what a war of the strong against the weak means—of what the modern war machinery can do with men, and how it crushes their homes, their loves, their kith and kindred and when we think it all over the pathos is indescribable.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican: The first imperative duty is to renounce a war of subjugation. Offensive fighting on the part of our troops should be forbidden. If they have begun to turn the repulse of the Filipinos into an aggressive campaign that campaign should be instantly halted. To pursue it—to follow up and fight down the island forces as rebels and make good our title by force—is to plunge into criminal and ruinous tyranny. The military considerations and instincts which may urge a forward movement must be wholly subordinated to our civic duty, our responsibility before God and man. Let our forces hold only the positions they have hitherto held. Let emphatic notice be given to the Filipinos that if they will hereafter keep the peace we will keep it. The situation is made terribly difficult by the blood already shed, but it may not be too late. And as yet we have only expelled an assault made upon us. Call that assault a blunder of patriots, or call it a wanton crime—it came as a blow which our soldiers could do not less than vigorously repulse. We may fairly say: "You struck, and we had to strike back; now let there be peace."

New York Post: English newspapers do not understand American squeamishness over pushing civilization forward in the Philippines in a powder cart. We are young and energetic imperialists. The English are hardened to the business they know all about "punitive expeditions," and are blasé in fighting now the Matabele, now the Afriki, shelling palaces in Zanzibar in order to settle the royal succession to their taste and cramming the rubber and cotton goods down the throats of recalcitrant natives. In time we may hope to attain this high imperialistic level, but as yet we have a few dregs of republican conscience left to trouble us. Americans have queer and unpleasant sensations when they see their soldiers mowing down natives armed with bows and arrows. All accounts agree that one detachment of the insurgent army, the Ygorotes, were so armed and that they were put forward against Krag-Jorgensen and Maxim. Of course our troops had to cut them down like wild beasts, as they did, but there must have been many an American soldier to exclaim when all was over, as English soldiers cried out at Duran, "This is not a battle, but an execution."

PROTESTING THE MACHINES. Indianapolis Journal. The typhoid microbe quit the biz; The plumber takes champagne in his, The "Old Inhab." has a frosted paw, A spell of weather such as this, And yet, in spite of all, the "Old Inhab." The fee man thinks it rather nice, This is the time he "cuts some ice."

HER VALENTINE. Detroit Free Press. When fortune favored me, I bought her gloves, I bought her laces, perfumes, candy, I was her slave—before her throne, I knelt, much as a dog before his master cowers. When fortune favored me, I bought her I bought her costly gifts at Christmas time, I bought her once or twice a pretty ring, And always sent to her a valentine. But this year fortune did not come my way, The little dame, instead, went by my door, My sweetheart gets from me no lovely gifts, Which I once showered upon her gate, As a valentine, this year, I'll give myself, I'll say to her: "You know I'm strong and healthy; So come by mine, we'll surely get along; Your father, dear, will help us—he is wealthy."

NEGROES IN THE PROFESSIONS. Peasimistic Theories Overthrown by Cold Facts. Boston Globe. There is scant warrant for certain peasimistic theories regarding the negro's future in this country in the report recently made by Rev. George W. Moore of Nashville, as a result of his investigation into the work of negroes in the various professions. He finds that during the twelve months of his investigation there were 1,319 students in professional courses in colored schools and of these 125 were women. There were 703 students and seventy-six graduates of theology, 124 students and twenty-four graduates in law, 286 students and thirty graduates in medicine and six graduates in pharmacy and 126 students and forty graduates in nurse training. There were twenty-five schools of theology, five schools of law and six schools of medicine.

About 400 negro lawyers are in practice throughout the country, while the negro ministry includes fully 1,000 preachers of seminary education. Not all these men are successful, of course, any more than an

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Chicago Times-Herald: We mourn for our own loss in killed and wounded, but we shudder at the slaughter of simple thousands in the unequal contest. Americans find no compensating gain or glory in a victory over the half-armored and half-naked natives of Luzon. Their blood is on the head of Aguinaldo and the minority in the United States senate, but there was nothing of the "half devil" about the slaughtered Filipinos to make us exultant over their decimation.

Baltimore American: In even greater degree does the foolish fate of the followers of Aguinaldo strike one. Here we lost only four men, and killed 2,000 and wounded 3,500 of the misguided natives, who fought mostly with old weapons, for what they believed to be their liberty. It is all very well to say our forty were worth many times as many, but after awhile we shall be sending missionaries out there and teaching them that the immortal soul has no sliding values. This brings us up to what a war of the strong against the weak means—of what the modern war machinery can do with men, and how it crushes their homes, their loves, their kith and kindred and when we think it all over the pathos is indescribable.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican: The first imperative duty is to renounce a war of subjugation. Offensive fighting on the part of our troops should be forbidden. If they have begun to turn the repulse of the Filipinos into an aggressive campaign that campaign should be instantly halted. To pursue it—to follow up and fight down the island forces as rebels and make good our title by force—is to plunge into criminal and ruinous tyranny. The military considerations and instincts which may urge a forward movement must be wholly subordinated to our civic duty, our responsibility before God and man. Let our forces hold only the positions they have hitherto held. Let emphatic notice be given to the Filipinos that if they will hereafter keep the peace we will keep it. The situation is made terribly difficult by the blood already shed, but it may not be too late. And as yet we have only expelled an assault made upon us. Call that assault a blunder of patriots, or call it a wanton crime—it came as a blow which our soldiers could do not less than vigorously repulse. We may fairly say: "You struck, and we had to strike back; now let there be peace."

New York Post: English newspapers do not understand American squeamishness over pushing civilization forward in the Philippines in a powder cart. We are young and energetic imperialists. The English are hardened to the business they know all about "punitive expeditions," and are blasé in fighting